

ALFRED BATTLE HOUSE

(Students Masonic Building)
University Ave.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Tuscaloosa Co.

ALA
HABS No. 16-226
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13-

PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

ALFRED BATTLE HOUSE
"Students" Masonic Building
University Avenue.
Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: Mrs. Linka Friedman.

Previous Owners: Alfred Battle.
Chas. Hopkins & Co.
Friedman & Loveman.

Date of Erection: 1840 - 1842.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Alfred Battle.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Two story brick masonry;
portico with wooden railings; six large square columns
to the front porch.

Other Existing Records:

Source of Material: James A. Anderson and W. S. Wyman, Jr.,
University, Alabama

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd, Auburn, Ala.

Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS
12/1/1936

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Dec 10. 36 TWC

ADDENDUM TO
BATTLE-FRIEDMAN HOUSE
(Alfred Battle House)
1010 Greensboro Ave.
Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-226

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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ADDENDUM TO
BATTLE-FRIEDMAN HOUSE
(Alfred Battle House)
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BATTLE-FRIEDMAN HOUSE
(Alfred Battle House)

HABS No. AL-226

Location: 1010 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa,
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Date of
Construction: 1835

Description: This two-story Greek Revival style house
features a six-column portico across the
front constructed of brick (stuccoed, scored
and marbleized). Interiors feature a center-
hall plan and elaborate plasterwork in two
parlors, executed during the Friedman
residence when formal gardens were also
developed.

Project
Information: This report is based on written documentation
donated by the Birmingham Historical Society,
reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Significance: House associated with prominent merchant and
railroad financier, Alfred Battle and New
South politician and industrialist Barnard
Friedman.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Built by Alfred Battle (1801-1877), a North Carolina native who arrived in Tuscaloosa in 1821 and established a successful career in merchandising, then planting and railroading, built this two-story brick (plastered to imitate stone) house in 1835. Battle's biographer notes that he was "an owner of extensive plantations" and "influential in securing the first railroad through Tuscaloosa." (Owen, Vol. II, 112) In 1875, Barnard Friedman, a Hungarian immigrant (in 1856), purchased the residence.

Born and educated in Hungary, Barnard Friedman (d. 1896) came to America in 1856 and to Tuscaloosa in 1866. Owner and general manager of the Baugh, Kennedy and Company Cotton Mill in Cottondale, he also dealt in real estate and industrial development. He sold 43,000 acres of coal lands near Vance to the Tuscaloosa Coal Iron and Land Co. in 1887, becoming a Vice President. His great friend William Carlos Jemison served as President. While Jemison served as mayor of the city, Friedman served as alderman. Together they developed an iron furnace known as the Friedman Furnace as part of their attempts to get Tuscaloosa industry going in the late nineteenth century. Barnard Friedman's son, Hugo Friedman, gave the Battle-Friedman House to the City of Tuscaloosa in 1965. It is operated as a house museum and is open to the public.

Sources Consulted

HABS, 1936

Gamble, Robert, The Alabama Catalog, pp. 351-52.
Tuscaloosa County Site Survey, p. 101.